



Xbox 360 HDD Replacement

This is how to take apart the Microsoft Xbox 360 HDD to possibly upgrade your drive capacity.

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INTRODUCTION

It should be noted that while this modification will add additional memory to your console, it violates the Xbox Live terms of service, and could potentially lead to your banishment from Xbox Live.

Here I show you the rather simple replacement of the actual hard drive in the 360's HDD enclosure. Microsoft makes it expensive or difficult to upgrade your hard drive by limiting your options with said upgrade. I found a handy guide on GamerWok.com that gives you the software tools and know-how to make a bigger drive work in your 360, up to 250GB. This guide deals with how to physically take the drive apart and replace it with your shiny, new WD HDD. Yes, for some reason it has to be a Western Digital drive. One from either of the following drive series:

- WD Scorpio Series BEVS/BEAS
- WD Scorpio Blue Series BEVS/BEVT
- WD Scorpio Black Series BEKT/BJKT
- WD VelociRaptor Series

I looked on Newegg.com and found a Scorpio Black 250GB drive spinning at 7200RPM with 16MB cache and 3.0Gb/s. for about \$65. That is what I would probably recommend, being that it gives you the most bang for your buck, and is about half what MS will charge you for the 250GB drive.

Here is the URL for the guide on GamerWok:

<http://www.gamerwok.com/main/2010/7/15/h...>

I have not yet tried the guide, but it seems to require quite a bit of expertise, so proceed with caution.



TOOLS:

- [T6 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [T10 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Xbox 360 HDD Enclosure](#) (1)

Step 1 — HDD



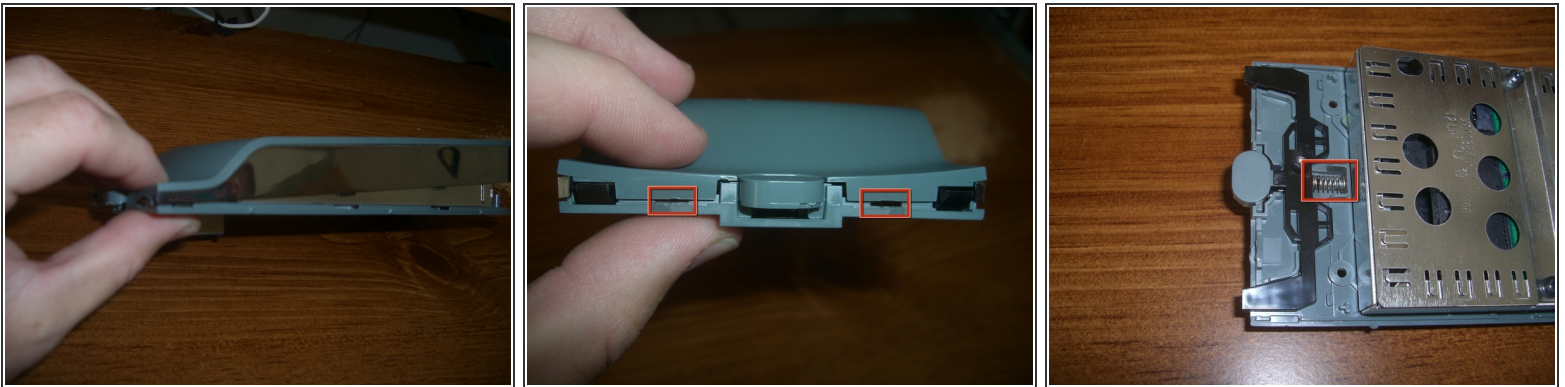
- Here it is. The standard 20GB HDD for the Xbox 360.
 - Notice the proprietary adapter. Inside is just a pretty standard 2.5" SATA drive...
 - I took these pictures as I was putting it back together, hence the Microsoft warranty sticker looking a little funny.
 - You may also notice the screw in the bottom left is partly out. This is because as I was replacing the screw before it, I broke my bit. I was using a 1/16" flathead bit (I don't have a T6 Torx) and used just a little too much torque and it snapped. I found another 1/16" bit to finish, but didn't get a pic.
- ☛ If you have Torx bits/drivers, use them. They will work much better than the flatheads.

Step 2



- ❗ Remove the Microsoft warranty sticker. I used my fingernail. Note: doing so voids the warranty for the drive, if it is still valid.
- It only voids the warranty for the drive, not the console, being as their warranties are separate.
- Proceed to remove the four T6 Torx screws.

Step 3



- Holding the drive top up, gently pull the top half up from the bottom half. The back will rotate up as the front is connected by two plastic clips.
- These clips are most easily undone by rotating the top enclosure to about 30° then lifting it up firmly.
- ❗ Be careful to not let it jerk violently during separation. Once the top is removed, there isn't much of anything holding the latch mechanism in place. It would be a bummer to lose the spring, though getting the latch assembly back in place if it comes out is not too difficult, just don't lose the spring.

Step 4



- Remove the four T10 Torx screws.
- Slide the cover towards the back of the enclosure and remove. There is a small dot of lock-tite on each screw, fyi.
- The third image is unnecessary, but if you quickly mouse over the second and third images it kinda makes it look animated.

Step 5



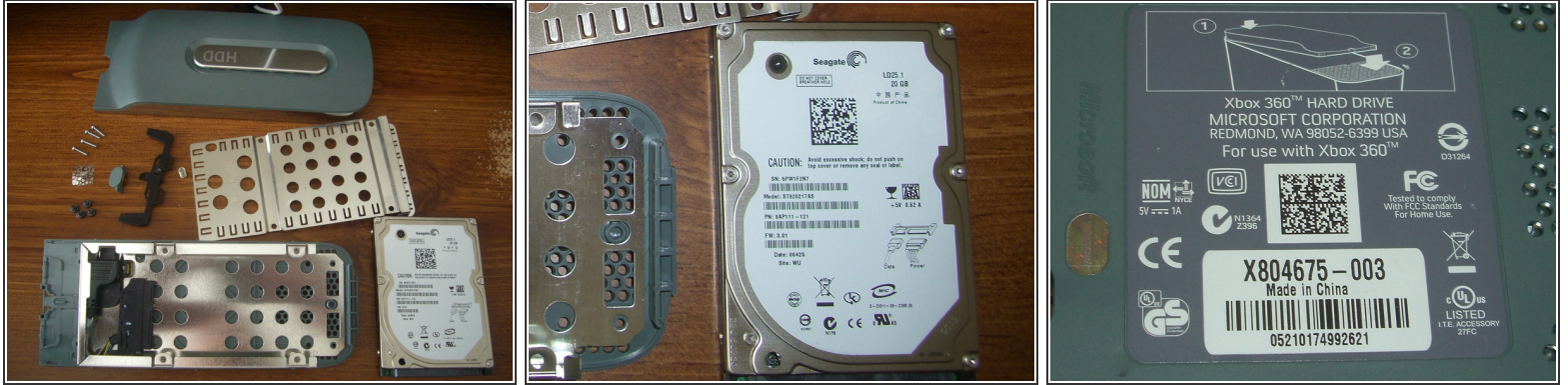
- Here are the innards in all their glory.
- The four screws that held the cover on also held the drive in place, so just pull off the SATA connector and the drive is almost free.

Step 6



- To actually get the drive out, you must bend the back of the plastic part of the bottom enclosure down a little bit. Doing so shouldn't break anything, just don't go overboard and bend it excessively.

Step 7



- All the parts disassembled. The adapter cable will probably come out as it doesn't seem to be attached directly, but removing it would have required bending the metal enclosure and I didn't want to mess with that.
 - I thought it interesting to note that the drive runs at 5V 0.62A when the enclosure states 5V 1A. I wonder where the other 380mA are going.
 - Also interesting to note: this is a Seagate drive, while the 250GB drive upgrade I mention in the description requires a WD drive. If I understood correctly, this is because the software to format the drive to be recognized by your 360 is written for the WD firmware.
- i** Again, for more info on how to make a 250 GB conversion, see the GamerWok article.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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